

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer:

We write to ask that the budget reconciliation bill provide up to \$34 billion in funding to significantly accelerate the production of COVID-19 vaccines for global distribution, both to save lives and to reinforce America's leadership in combatting the pandemic worldwide. We applaud President Biden's recent announcement that the U.S. government will purchase and donate to lower income countries 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, as well as its financial contributions to COVAX, made possible by the American Rescue Plan. These steps have been extraordinarily generous and consistent with our national interest, because if the pandemic continues to rage in other countries, variants could emerge that defeat existing vaccines.

However, the magnitude of the problem—only 1% of people in low-income countries vaccinated and over 6 billion worldwide who have yet to receive a dose—necessitates an even greater commitment from the United States to provide vaccines and secure end-to-end delivery at a global scale.ⁱ Even if we set a relatively modest goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the population in the 92 lower-income countries eligible for assistance from COVAX, billions more doses will be needed. **To this end, we respectfully request that whatever is needed on top of unspent COVID-19 relief funds to get to \$34 billion be set aside in the upcoming economic development and jobs package to reach such a goal.**

Part of the answer will be stepped up production of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries. More must be done to make this possible, and the Biden administration is working with partners around the world to address the complicated challenges involved. Meanwhile, the most practical step the United States can take is to do our part in mass producing the vaccines our companies helped develop and enabling the most rapid and equitable distribution of those vaccines to the countries in greatest need. This vision is specifically outlined in the broadly supported *Nullifying Opportunities for Variants to Infect & Decimate (NOVID) Act* (H.R. 3778/S.1976), which details a plan for achieving these goals through a comprehensive production and distribution strategy.

The United States accounts for almost 25 percent of the global economy, and we control an even larger share of the manufacturing capacity for the uniquely effective vaccines that our companies have patented.^{ii,iii} As such, the 500 million doses we have already promised represent less than our fair share of the billions of doses needed to meet this global challenge. Recent COVID-19 outbreaks in countries that relied on Chinese vaccines reinforce how dependent lower income countries will be on American assistance to defeat COVID-19. In rising to this challenge, we can show once again that in moments of great need, America does great things.

Estimates indicate that it will cost up to \$25 billion to create enough vaccine manufacturing capacity around the world to vaccinate 60% of the populations in the COVAX countries, plus another \$8.5 billion

to ensure end-to-end delivery of the vaccines.^{iv} **We therefore urge Congress to provide whatever funds are needed in the reconciliation bill, in addition to any unspent ARP funds that may exist, to achieve this goal.**

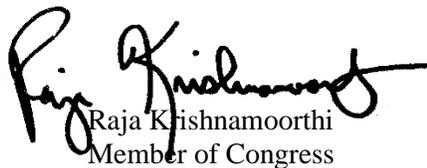
No investment in the fight against COVID-19 is more urgent and cost-effective now than an investment in getting the world vaccinated as quickly as possible. Even assuming wealthy countries will be fully vaccinated by mid-2021, the global economic cost of not vaccinating lower-income countries is estimated to be \$9 trillion per year, or nearly ten percent of global GDP.^v \$34 billion is a small price to pay to help return the U.S. and global economy to normalcy, and we request that such an amount is included in the upcoming spending package.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

Members of Congress:

James P. McGovern
Jerrold Nadler
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Karen Bass
Andy Levin
Dina Titus
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Danny K. Davis
Andy Kim
Steve Cohen
Suzanne Bonamici
Vicente Gonzalez
Deborah K. Ross
Colin Allred
Ritchie Torres
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Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Adriano Espaillat
Troy Carter
Conor Lamb
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Peter A. DeFazio
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William R. Keating
Jim Costa
Ro Khanna
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Katie Porter
John Garamendi
Marcy Kaptur
Joaquin Castro
Kathy Manning
Dean Phillips
Jahana Hayes
Jake Auchincloss
Rashida Tlaib
Earl Blumenauer
Tom Suozzi
G.K. Butterfield
Norma Torres
Steven Horsford
Marie Newman

Raul Grijalva
Ted Deutch
Albio Sires
David Cicilline
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Bobby L. Rush
Jamie Raskin
Joe Courtney
André Carson
Bill Foster
Ted Lieu
Jamaal Bowman
Mary Gay Scanlon
Mark Pocan
Marilyn Strickland
Melanie Stansbury
Anthony G. Brown
Dwight Evans
Sara Jacobs
Sheila Jackson Lee
Seth Moulton

CC: Chair John Yarmuth, U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee
Chair Bernard Sanders, U.S. Senate Budget Committee

ⁱ T.V. Padma, *COVID vaccines to reach poorest countries in 2023 — despite recent pledges*, Nature (July 5, 2021). <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01762-w>

ⁱⁱ Congressional Research Service. (December 3, 2018) *U.S. Trade Trends and Developments*. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45420.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Estabn Ortiz-Prado, et al., *Vaccine Market and Production Capabilities in the Americas*, Trop Dis Travel Med Vaccines 7, 11 (April 13, 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40794-021-00135-5>

^{iv} Public Citizen. (February 18, 2021). *\$25 Billion to Vaccinate the World*. <https://www.citizen.org/article/25-billion-to-vaccinate-the-world/>

^v Peter S. Goodman, *If Poor Countries Go Unvaccinated, a Study Says, Rich Ones Will Pay*, The New York Times (January 23, 2021). <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/23/business/coronavirus-vaccines-global-economy.html>